

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

8 MARCH 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Syrian coup

a. The military coup carried out in Syria early this morning came exactly one month to the day after the overthrow of Qasim in Iraq. Both actions were led by Baathists.

b. Present indications are that the move has the backing of major army elements. There may, however, be trouble with the air force. Syrian jets were this morning making low passes over Damascus in a display of dissidence. Army headquarters in Damascus are under heavy guard and the center of the city is cordoned off.

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2. Soviet forces in Cuba

a. [redacted]
photograph [redacted]

[redacted] shows some evidence of preparations for movement at two of the Soviet military encampments.

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b. Unidentified gear was again observed alongside barracks at Remedios, but not the same barracks where similar material was seen last Saturday. Several cargo trucks were parked near the barracks.

(Cont'd)

c. At Holguin, the [redacted] photography [redacted] seems to show that equipment--believed to be two radars, a large and a small tent--was being moved. Photographs [redacted] indicated that a building has been removed at the same site.

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d. It is impossible to tell from this evidence, however, whether the activity involves a relocation of units, as has happened before, or a withdrawal.

3. SAMS In Cuba

a. [redacted] the Soviets have set up an installation to train Cubans in the operation of SAMS.

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c. A new SAM site has been under construction at Managua, about 13 miles southeast of Havana, since January. This could be the training site, for its revetments and road facilities are more extensive and appear to be more permanent than those found at many of the operational SAM sites.

4. Cuban refugees

a. It looks increasingly as though the Cuban exiles who have a B-26 bomber in Costa Rica are in earnest about using it to raid Cuba.

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the aircraft is operational and a crew is available.

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5. UAR - Saudi Arabia

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d. The arrest of several of-
ficers in Jidda points to growing
uneasiness in the Saudi government.

6. Sino-Soviet
relations

a. Chou En-lai and other top
Chinese Communists recently unburdened
themselves of their feelings about
the Soviets [redacted]
[redacted]

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b. [redacted]
they believed the Russians wanted
to keep China from becoming a great
power. As evidence they cited a list
of specific grievances: the Russian
refusal to help the Chinese Communists
take control of Manchuria after World
War II; the withdrawal of Soviet
scientists and technicians as re-
lations began to sour; failure to

(Cont'd)

help--especially with food--when the Chinese lately found themselves in a tight spot.

c. The Chinese traced illegal Russian occupation of Chinese territory back to Tsarist times. As for today, they said, the border between them and the USSR was the final and most difficult border problem.

d. The latest Chinese editorial attack on Moscow works the same vein. It cites a number of "unequal treaties" under which Russia, along with others, "annexed Chinese territory."

7. NATO--MLF

a. Spaak, confronted with domestic opposition led by the Belgian Defense Minister, has informed Ambassador Merchant that he cannot now put his country down in favor of a multilateral force.

b. A "favorable evolution of the situation" would require these developments: British, German and Italian commitments to the force; manageable costs; reorientation of the Belgian defense effort.

(Cont'd)

c. In Bonn, von Hassel has affirmed West Germany's support for the MLF to Merchant. In so doing, he stated that he had been converted during his Washington visit to the concept of mixed manning as "feasible and right."

8. Malaysia

a. Foreign Minister Subandrio is scheduled to arrive in Manila today to press for joint Indonesian-Philippine action in opposition to the Malaysian Federation.

b. An advance guard of Indonesians has so far found the Filipinos resistant to the idea of a tandem approach.

c. Macapagal, who remains, nonetheless, set against the Federation, has intimated that his government will not recognize the new state if it is established as planned.

9. Afghanistan

a. A turnover in the country's leadership may be in the making. Reports from Kabul say that Premier Daud has turned in his resignation to the King.

(Cont'd)

b. The resignation has not been publicly disclosed and evidently has not yet been acted on. It seems virtually certain, however, that there has been a falling out between Daud and the King and other members of the royal family.

c. The immediate cause is a reorganization plan put forward by Daud which would place the royal family outside the government structure.

d. There is, in addition, increasing concern in Kabul over the country's growing dependence on the USSR and the economic miseries growing out of the impasse with Pakistan.

NOTES

A. USSR-Cuba

[redacted] the USSR has bought 15 Liberty ships for use on the Havana run. The ships, said now to be in Panama, would sail under third-country flags.

[redacted]

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D. Turkey Premier Inonu's political strength continues to ebb. He is now contemplating a cabinet reshuffle to shore up his government but there is growing speculation that his days in office are numbered.

E. France-US OAS leader Jacques Soustelle has shown up at the US Embassy in Madrid in quest of a US visa. His aspiration is to come to Washington to "explain" the OAS to US officials.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST



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